

# District 25 News

MAKIKI, TANTALUS, McCULLY, PAPAOLEA

DECEMBER 2008

## The Shortlist

### Makiki Mele Kalikimaka

Keikis and parents come one and all to Honolulu Department of Parks & Recreation "Makiki Mele Kalikimaka" holiday celebration at Makiki District Park. There will be refreshments, Make and Take Crafts, a Mermaids of Hawaii performance, children's games, and much more. Come visit with Santa starting at 10:30am. For more information about the event or to help out, call Makiki District Park's recreation director Spencer Yee at 522-7082. No admission.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6

Makiki District Park, Agee Auditorium  
1527 Keeaumoku Street  
@ 10:00 am-11:30 pm

### Opening Day Celebration for Legislative Session 2009

Help Rep. Belatti mark the beginning of the new legislative session by joining her for an *informal lunch* on Opening Day at the Capitol. For more information, contact her office manager Berna Fo at 586-9425 or by email at fo@capitol.hawaii.gov.

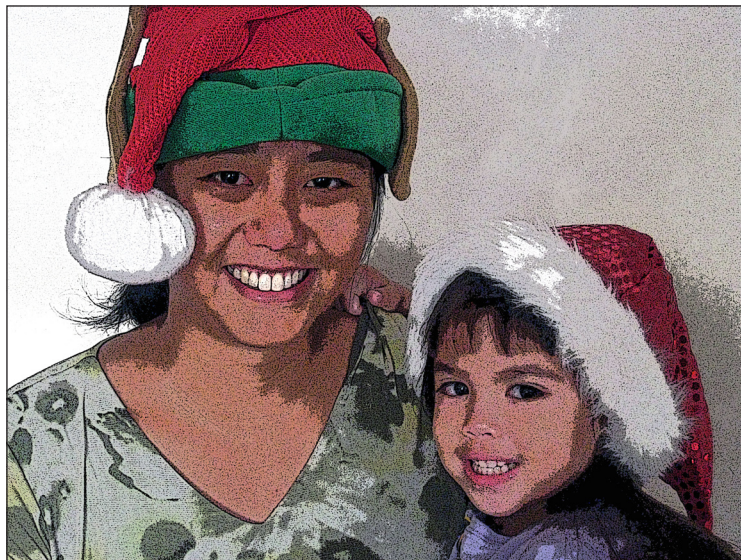
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21

The State Capitol, Room 331  
@ 12:00 noon

## District 25 News

To comment on something written in District 25 News or to request regular e-delivery, please write to:

Representative Della Au Belatti  
State Capitol, Room 331  
Honolulu, HI 96813  
repbelatti@capitol.hawaii.gov



## Mele kalikimaka and hauoli makahiki hou!

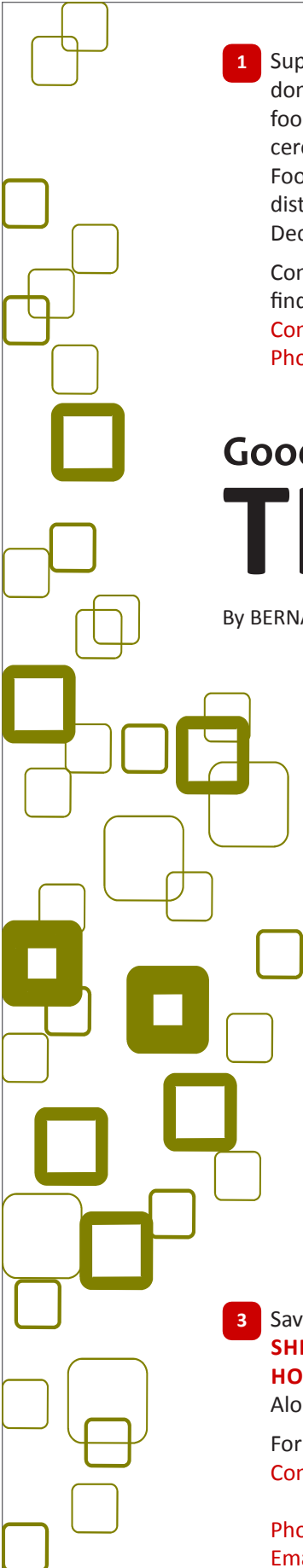
Welcome to a special holiday edition of District 25 News. The end of any year is always a time for reflection. 2008 has certainly provided us with many historic events to ponder. In my "Elections 2008 reflections," I share with you some of my thoughts on this past political year and the road ahead.

Now more than ever, with the global and local economies in turmoil, how we address the challenges before us will require creative solutions and a commitment to ensuring the long term health and economic well-being of our communities.

As always, I am grateful for the privilege of serving as your voice in the Legislature. From my family to yours, we wish you a safe and happy holiday season.

Mahalo pumehana,

Della Au Belatti  
State Representative, District 25

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- 1** Support **THE PARISH OF ST. CLEMENT** by donating dry-stored and non-perishable food items (like canned goods and dry cereals) and toiletry items for their Food Pantry Program's annual Christmas distribution happening this year on December 20.

Contact for drop-off information and to find out the most needed items—

**Contact:** Carolyn K.

**Phone:** 955-7745

- 2** Buy online the "Hawaii Miracles 2009 Calendar" and benefit **KAPI'OLANI MEDICAL CENTER FOR WOMEN & CHILDREN**.

For more information, contact Kapi'olani Health Foundation—

**Contact:** Mark Berthold

**Phone:** 535-7982

**Email:** mark.berthold@kapiolani.org

**Check out:** www.kapiolanigift.org

## Good ideas for Good Giving this holiday season

# THE GOOD LIST

By BERNA FO These days the World Wide Web serves to help us, the worldwide citizenry, find the worthy cause that needs our help the most and the charity that can put our dollars, time and non-money contributions to good use helping those in need. And even though this means that good giving can be as simple as a mouse click, we at *District 25 News* thought it might be helpful to remind neighbors about the groups that do good and need our help here in our own community with this unique version of Santa's "The Good List." In this list you'll find "needful" items from neighborhood organizations and the appropriate contact information to help you give your assistance.

With the slowing economy, these community groups especially need your help this holiday season. Review the list, and before making a contribution to the organization of your choice be sure to use the contact or website information provided. And if you are not able to give any of the items needed, every organization gladly welcomes monetary donations--big and small.

As a surfer-dude/UH professor once told me, "It doesn't matter what organization you help, whether they're about trees, or whales, or world hunger. One isn't more important than the other; they all do good work. Just pick one and help!"

- 3** Save on your fuel costs and donate to **SHRINERS HOSPITALS FOR CHILDREN, HONOLULU** by signing up for a Shriners--Aloha Petroleum Gas Card.

For details—

**Contact:** Iwalani Dayton  
Director of Development

**Phone:** 951-3609


**Email:** idayton@shrinenet.org

- 4** Make a gift of your time this year to help re-open the volunteer supported **THE MAKIKI LIBRARY**; volunteers for a variety of library support needs are much welcomed.

Contact Friends of the Makiki Library volunteer coordinator—

**Contact:** Norma K. Koenig  
President

**Phone:** 946-3291

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- 5** Give the art lover(s) in your life a Student, Individual or Dual Membership to **THE CONTEMPORARY MUSEUM.**

For more information—

**Email:** membership@tcmhi.org

**Phone:** 237-5219

- 6** Support our Mighty Roughriders through your everyday purchases made at Safeway, Macy's and other merchants by registering for e-scripts and designating **ROOSEVELT HIGH SCHOOL.**

Register at [www.escripts.com](http://www.escripts.com) and designate one or more of the following—

- Roosevelt High School – Group No. 5652198
- Roosevelt Band Booster Club – Group No. 500002368
- Friends of Roosevelt Project Graduation – Group No. 500006630

- 7** Help local “women make tailored transitions into the workforce” through **FERNHURST YWCA** and YWCA of Oahu's Dress for Success Honolulu program by giving your gently used clothing and accessories.

If you would like to help out as a Personal Shopper, make a donation, or become a retail partner, contact YWCA of Oahu at—

**Phone:** 538-7061 ext. 603

**Email:** dfs@ywca.org

**Checkout:** [www.ywca.org](http://www.ywca.org)

- 8** Donate your gently used clothing, household goods, books and children's toys to **FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH** for their monthly benefit Church Sale held every 2nd Saturday of the month [next sale is Saturday, December 13 at the church].

For drop-off information and details about FCC's monthly Church Sale event—

**Contact:** Lorna

**Phone:** 521-3500

- 9** Help bring hope to those in need by donating your vehicle to **CATHOLIC CHARITIES HAWAII**, where net proceeds from the re-sale of the vehicle help fund CCH programs and services across the state.

For a brief overview of Catholic Charities Hawai'i's vehicle donation requirements and process, please phone or visit online at—

**Phone:** 546-CARS (2277)

**Checkout:** [www.catholiccharitieshawaii.org](http://www.catholiccharitieshawaii.org)

- 10** Support our very own **STEVENSON MIDDLE SCHOOL** by donating needed classroom supplies and materials; needful items listed in the Teacher Wish Lists posted online include books, computer equipment, office supplies, and retail gift cards to name but a few.

For detailed lists and teacher contact information, click on “Teacher Wish Lists” at the following—

**Checkout:** <http://www.k12.hi.us/~stevens/>

*If you're group isn't on the list, please email [fo@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:fo@capitol.hawaii.gov) or call 586-9425 with your group's name and contact info so that we may contact you for next year's list.*



# Elections '08 reflections

By DELLA AU BELATTI

On the eve of Election Day 2008, I was honored to be the guest speaker at the Maryknoll Grade School's Kids Voting Hawaii rally before 800 cheering students. The crowd was an explosion of red, white and blue, with schoolchildren waving their brightly colored campaign posters and donning their patriotic homemade hats and flags.

Like so many of those students, I was invigorated by this year's presidential race and anxious to know how my fellow citizens would vote on questions regarding a Constitutional Convention and Honolulu's proposed rail transit project.

The public has spoken – and we now have a President-elect who has a unique connection not only to Hawaii, but to our very own Makiki district; we will not be convening a Constitutional Convention, but prospects for constitutional change still exist through the legislative process; and Honolulu will have steel on steel rail technology to move it further into the 21st century. The following are a few of my reflections on this year's election season:

## Presidential politics

In the midst of economic turmoil, two wars, and the greatest environmental challenges facing our planet, America clearly voted for a change in leadership with a decisive electoral college and popular vote victory for President-elect Barack Obama. The candidate's visit back to Hawaii to bid aloha to his beloved grandmother, however, reminds us of what is truly important: family.

Since his election night win, I have perused many speeches by President-elect Obama and have been struck by the emphasis he places on family, both those who preceded him and the daughters who follow him. As our country faces some of its great-

est challenges, I am reassured that the country has elected a president who emulates the strength and perseverance of the grandmother who helped raise him and who is guided by a desire to shape a better future for all of America's children.



*From L to R--November 3, 2008--Maryknoll social studies teacher and Kids Voting coordinator Margot Adair, Rep. Belatti, and Maryknoll teacher and Kids Voting rally emcee Jeff Chang take a moment to smile during the event at Maryknoll Grade School. Kids Voting Hawaii is part of a nationwide program that aims to teach the value of civic awareness and participation to some of our youngest school-age citizens.*

## ConCon outcomes

Politics – which is so often about timing and money – favored those opposing a Constitutional Convention. As an advocate for ConCon, I believe that responsible constitutional amendments can be made to our basic governing document. In particular, changes can be made in education and in the elections process to ensure greater access, participation and accountability. But as ConCon opponents argued throughout the campaign, reform is possible through the

legislative process. Attention should now turn to this avenue with responsibility placed squarely on the Legislature and advocates to bring forward positive constitutional amendments for the electorate to consider.

## Rail for the 21st century and beyond

The landscape of Honolulu is set to change. On the question of rail, the public was more closely divided. With the decision finally made to move forward with rail, community participation remains critical to the public comment process on the environmental impact statement and the legislative process that will shape transit-oriented development and future funding for the largest public works project in Hawaii to date.

If there is one lesson to take from all the questions pondered by the electorate during this season, it is that voting is a critical first step in the democratic process. What we do after the elections, however, and how we continue to engage in the political process may be even more significant if we want to positively shape the course of our collective future.